8 lb. m. 15
49.

REASONS

Humbly Offered to this Honourable Houſe, why a Bill pretended to give further Powers to the Corporation for ſetting the Poor of the City of London *and Liberties thereof to Work, ſhould not paſs into a Law.*

IT authorizes the Preſident, Governours, and Aſſiſtants, or any authorized by them, to apprehend all Idle Perſons and Vagrants, asking Alms in the ſaid City and Liberties, to ſend them to their laſt Abode; or if they conceal'd the ſame, then to the Houſe of Correction.

This is a ſtrange Power to be lodg'd in ſuch Perſons as now do, or hereafter may compoſe this Corporation.

'Tis larger than either the Aldermen or Juſtices of the Peace are intruſted with by any Law, and 'tis in effect making a new Magiſtracy; and 'tis making them Maſters of the Liberty of the People, without Proof or Conviction of any Crime.

It impowers the Preſident, *&c.* on complaint (of too ſmall an Allowance) made by any poor Perſon, to ſummons the Church-Wardens, Overſeers, and Collectors to appear before them, and to adminiſter Oaths, and on Examination to order ſuch Weekly Allowance to the Perſon complaining, as the Preſident, *&c.* ſhall think fit, and the Church-Wardens, Overſeers, and Collectors are to pay the ſame.

It is humbly conceived, That 'tis hard and unreaſonable, that theſe Men, who are Strangers to the Poor of a Pariſh, and to the means they have of ſuſtaining their Poor, on complaint of thoſe who are always craving and never ſatisfied, ſhall have power to augment their Allowance, and to order the Officers of the Pariſh to pay it, who certainly are the beſt Judges of the Neceſſities of their Poor, and their own Abilities, and ought not to be liable to make good, and pay out of their own Pockets, all that they cannot legally raiſe out of their Pariſh, eſpecially when the Perſons who are to judge in theſe Matters are to adminiſter Oaths; and many of thoſe thus impowered are Diſſenters, and divers of them Quakers.

The next Clauſe gives the Preſident, *&c.* Power to call the Church-Wardens, Overſeers, and Collectors to Account for all Moneys receiv'd and paid by them, and to allow, or diſallow their Accounts, as they ſhall ſee fit.

'Tis humbly conceiv'd, that no Perſon of Credit or Value will undertake the Office of Church-warden Overſeer, or Collector, if this Bill paſſes into a Law: For, beſides the Oaths they are already ſubject to, and the Accompts they muſt by Law undergo; if they are to be travelled into a new or other Examination at the Pleaſure or Prejudice of the Corporation, no Man of Eſtate or Integrity will undergo thoſe Offices, which at preſent are thought to be burthenſome by all honeſt and ſufficient Men; and nothing but the publick Good can engage thoſe that are fit, to undertake this Truſt: Therefore by no means theſe Men ought to be diſcouraged.

'Tis humbly alſo conceiv'd, that ſhould this Bill paſs, Charity will be greatly obſtructed: For thereby the Corporation are at Liberty to appoint Perſons to ask Alms at every Church Door, whereby great Diſturbance will happen, and the People well diſpoſed will be uncertain and diffident to whom to give their Alms, which may in all Probability greatly diſcourage thoſe well-diſpos'd Perſons, not knowing or believing Strangers can or will diſpoſe their Charity to proper Objects.

Amongſt other Exorbitant Powers, the Proſecutors of this Bill aim at, 'tis contriv'd that they ſhall have Power to raiſe on every Man yearly as much as he or ſhe now pays to the Poor, which amounts to at leaſt 10000 *l.* a Year, too great a Sum to be truſted to be raiſed or receiv'd by theſe Men, eſpecially becauſe they will not take care of any Poor but thoſe that are above the Age of Seven Years, and under Fifty Years, and of Health of Body, and require 12 *d. per* Week to be paid by the Churchwardens for each of them, which Perſons are little burthenſome to their reſpective Pariſhes. And after this great Sum raiſed, the Pariſhes are left burthen'd with Infants, aged, and ſick Perſons: So that this Corporation ſeems calculated for the Benefit of the Corporation and their Agents only.

But above all, it ſeems ſtrange to conſidering Men, That ſo great a Power ſhould be lodged in Perſons who may purchaſe the Privilege of being of this Corporation by a ſmall Sum of Money, (tho' they are *Papiſts*, *Diſſenters*, *Quakers*, or of any other Perſuaſion; nay, tho' they have no Pretenſion to Religion of any kind) whereby they may have ſo great an Influence on Rich and Poor.

'Tis therefore humbly hoped, this Bill attended with ſo many Inconveniencies, and from whence ſo little Good can be expected, ſhall not paſs into a Law. But if any part of this Bill ſhall be approved, 'tis humbly hoped that more Corporations ſhall be erected, and particularly the Ward of Farringdon without *(being a Sixth Part of the City of* London *and Liberties thereof) ſhall have a diſtinct Corporation in their Diſtrict, with ſuch reaſonable Powers as this Honourable Houſe ſhall think fit; it being impoſſible for the Perſons now incorporated to diſcharge the Truſt they graſp at. And by the Act of* 13 *and* 14 *of* Car. II. *It's Enacted, That there be and ſhall be one or more Corporation or Corporations, Work-houſe, or Work-houſes within the Cities of* London *and* Weſtminſter: *And that the Lord Mayor of the City of* London *for the time being, be Preſident of the Corporation or Corporations, Work-houſe or Work-houſes, within the ſaid City. And if the ſaid Ward of* Farringdon without *be thought fit to be made a Corporation, for the good Government thereof, and benefit of their Poor, that the Alderman of the ſaid Ward and his two Deputies, and the Common-Council Men of the ſaid Ward, conſiſting of Seventeen in Number, may be Members of the ſame Corporation: And otherwiſe as this Honourable Houſe in their Wiſdom ſhall think fit.*

REASONS

FOR

Making the Ward of *Farringdon without* in *London* a Corporation to imploy their Poor, and erect Workhouſes; and againſt the General Bill now depending in the Honourable Houſe of Commons.